

Serial No.: 09/348,515

Attorney's Docket No.: 16821-002001

Remarks:

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 1-35 have been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 1-35 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter, therefore this rejection is moot.

Claims 51-63 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims 1, 2, 19, and 20, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been rewritten in independent form, and thus are in condition for allowance.

In regard to the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that claims 51-52, 54-55, and 57-58 are allowable, at least in part, because they include:

sensing the charge levels of the vehicles;
transmitting the charge levels to a central station;
tracking the charge levels and the vehicle location information at the central station;

processing the vehicle location information for a vehicle due to arrive at a port to provide an estimated arrival time of the vehicle at the port;

defining a vehicle search group for each port including vehicles at the port and vehicles having estimated arrival times at the port within a predetermined time interval;

selecting a group of vehicles within the vehicle search group in response to vehicle charge levels.

In addition, claims 53, 56, 59, and 63 are allowable, at least in part, because they include:

determining a charging order for vehicles at a port in response to charge levels of the vehicles with vehicles

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with low charge level being charged before the vehicles with high charge levels.

Also, claims 60-62 are allowable, at least in part, because they include:

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle; and

a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor.

In view of the above remarks, therefore, all of the claims are in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Please apply any necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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